



Representative Bill Cochran



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District 72

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IU Southeast Looks at On-Campus Housing

Indiana University Southwest is currently looking into the option of offering on-campus housing to students.

While this is still under study at the university, as a State Representative I feel we need to look at this positive change for the campus.

IUS is a commuter school that draws the majority of its

students from the Louisville area and southern Indiana. On-campus housing would allow for a more diverse student body.

At this point everyone is waiting on a feasibility study by the university and then IUS would be going to the trustees with hopes of gaining approval and moving forward with the project through funding with bonds.

Closing Corporate Tax Loopholes

House Bill 1365 was passed by the House and the Senate during the legislative session that has just ended. While this bill deals with various tax matters, one portion will help to close corporate loopholes. The bill:

- Revises the manner in which net operating losses (NOL) are computed.

- Requires certain out of state entities to collect sales tax in Indiana.

- Establishes the Corporate Taxation Interim Study Committee to study the elimination of corporate business tax loopholes in state law.

Bills Give Hoosiers Property Tax Relief

Since the court ordered reassessments for property taxes in Indiana, the legislature has taken steps to help assure homeowners that they are getting a more equitable assessment on their property and to provide for tax relief in the future.

In 2002 the Republican-controlled Senate and the Democrat-controlled House of Representatives passed several provisions to combat increases by:

- Increasing the standard homestead deduction from \$6,000 to \$35,000.
- Taking 60 percent of school operating costs off the property tax rolls.
- Increasing the homestead credit from 4 percent to 20 percent.

During the session that just ended, the House of Representatives passed House Bill 1055 which will direct the state's Department of Local Government Finance to make its real property assessment guidelines more uniform. In addition to HB 1055, a series of reforms were passed that help build on the tax restructuring that took place in 2002. These relief measures include:

- Increasing property tax deductions for seniors on lower incomes, veterans, the blind and disabled and people who are rehabilitating homes.
- Extending of filing deadline for homestead credit and other deductions.
- Offering installment payment plans to taxpayers.
- Waiving penalties for late payments.
- Allowing 45 days for taxpayers to appeal bills.
- Limiting local government property tax increases.

Information on Indiana's

CHOICE Program

The Family and Social Services Administration (FSSA) implemented the Statewide IN-Home Services Program in the early 1990s. The Area Agency on Aging (AAA) case management system provides individuals the point of entry into this program. This makes services accessible for individuals and families through a coordinated and integrated approach.

Our AAA office for Clark and Floyd counties is AREA 14:

Lifespan Resources, Inc.
426 Bank Street, Suite 100, P.O. Box 995
New Albany, IN 47151-0995
(812) 948-8330
FAX (812) 948-0147

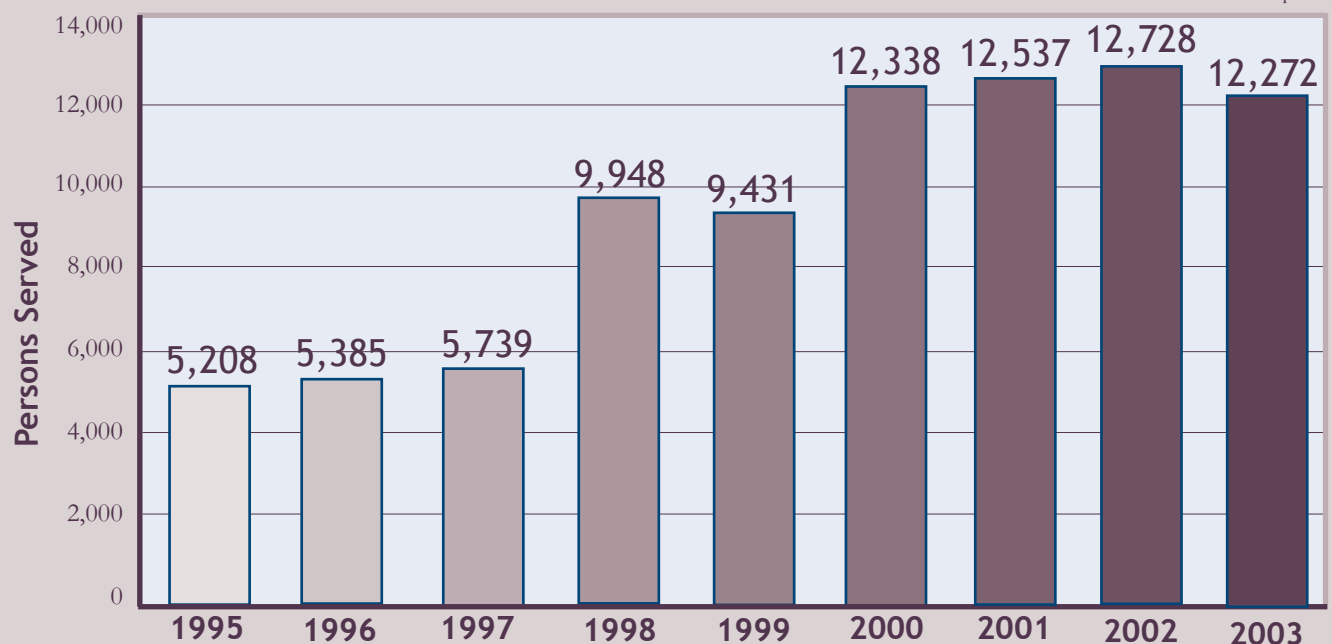
One component of these services is the Community and Home Options to Institutional Care for the Elderly and Disabled (CHOICE) program. To be eligible for CHOICE program services, an individual must be a resident of Indiana, age 60 years of age or older, or of any age with disabilities and unable to perform two or more activities of daily living as determined by an assessment using the Long Term Care Services Eligibility Screen.

Services of the CHOICE program include attendant care, homemaker, home health services and supplies, respite care, home delivered meals, adult day care, transportation and other services as needed. In the year 2003 the CHOICE program served 12,272 persons.

Persons in Indiana Served by CHOICE

1995 to 2003

Information from the
FSSA Annual Report



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and with

Representative Bill Cochran



Email Updates

Would you like to receive email updates with news from the Statehouse? You are always encouraged to contact me directly via email, but I would also be happy to send you news from time to time about what is going on at the Statehouse.

To receive updates, visit my website, www.in.gov/H72, to have your name added to the list. It's a simple way to stay informed about the issues that impact our state and our district.

Online

The official web site for the State of Indiana is www.in.gov. This is a good place to start if you are interested in information about Indiana and various government services.

Additionally, each representative has a web site with information on his or her background, education and contact information. My site is at www.in.gov/H72. There you may also learn about bills that I have filed, read past newsletters and apply to become a page or an intern.

Whichever method you prefer, I hope that you will keep informed and stay involved.

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